

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Bembridge

Candidate Marine Conservation Zone not proposed for designation in the second tranche

January 2015

**Consultation on Sites Proposed for Designation in the Second Tranche
of Marine Conservation Zones**

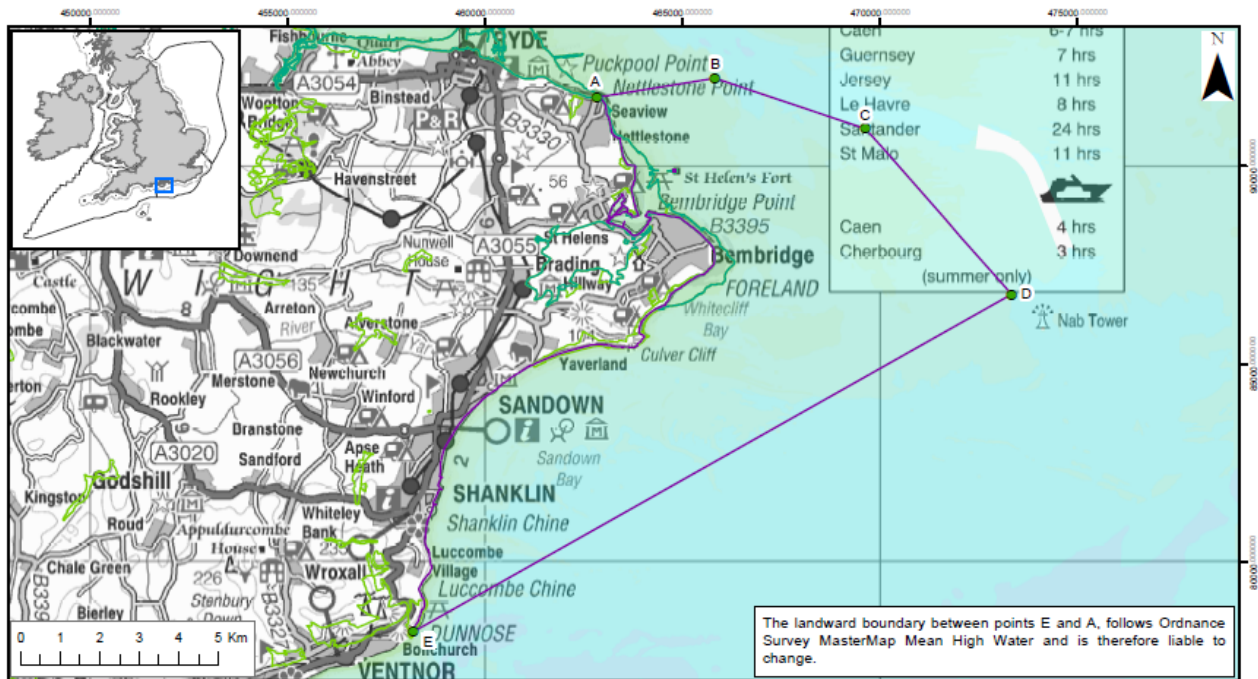
Contents

Where the site is located.....	3
Why this site was identified as a candidate for the second tranche	4
Features considered for designation.....	4
Effects of designation.....	3
Activities that are unlikely to be affected	4
Why this candidate site is not being proposed for designation in the second tranche	5
Further consideration	5
Additional information	5

Where the site is located

Bembridge candidate Marine Conservation Zone (cMCZ) lies adjacent to the east coast of the Isle of Wight, encompassing the intertidal area (including Sandown Bay and Bembridge Harbour) and the subtidal area, extending right out to the landward edge of the deep water channel approach into the Eastern Solent. The site is 85 km².

The site overlaps with the South Wight Maritime Special Area of Conservation (SAC), and the cMCZ would provide protection for species and habitats not covered by the SAC.



Bembridge rMCZ Boundary

- Recommended MCZ
- Regional MCZ project area
- MCZ boundary co-ordinates
- 12nM Territorial Seas Limit
- Land

- SPAs
- SSSIs

Point	Lat	Long
A	50° 43' 18.961" N	1° 6' 41.049" W
B	50° 43' 33.389" N	1° 4' 8.290" W
C	50° 42' 50.604" N	1° 0' 55.059" W
D	50° 40' 33.307" N	0° 57' 48.871" W
E	50° 36' 3.142" N	1° 10' 45.619" W

Depth Areas (metres)	
-20.0 - -10.0	25.1 - 50.0
-9.9 - -5.0	50.1 - 100.0
-4.9 - 0.0	100.1 - 250.0
0.1 - 5.0	250.1 - 500.0
5.1 - 10.0	500.1 - 1000.0
10.1 - 25.0	

Contains information from the Ordnance Survey © Crown Copyright and database right 2014. Ordnance Survey 100022021. UKHO Data © British Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Permission Number Defra012014.001. This product has been derived in part from material obtained from the UK Hydrographic Office with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office and UK Hydrographic Office (www.ukho.gov.uk). NOT TO BE USED FOR NAVIGATION. Map produced by Natural England 2014. Reference: Theme ID: 1475909 Map Projection: British National Grid

Why this site was identified as a candidate for the second tranche

The site was recommended for designation to fill gaps in the network for maerl beds, sea pens and burrowing megafauna and stalked jellyfish. The site has an exceptionally diverse range of habitats and species. As well as those listed above, they include the reef-building ross worm, native oysters and seagrass beds. The ledges to the south of Bembridge Harbour are home to large 'fields' of brown alga and peacock's tail, which acts as the seeding population for other areas of peacock's tail around the Isle of Wight. The lagoon sand shrimp and starlet sea anemone have been recorded in Bembridge Harbour and in areas below the mean high water mark. The northern part of the site contains subtidal mixed sediments and a large area of subtidal mud which supports a wide variety of species.

Features considered for designation

The features considered for designation in this site were:

- subtidal mixed sediments ,
- subtidal coarse sediment,
- subtidal macrophyte-dominated sediment,
- subtidal sand,
- subtidal mud,
- sheltered muddy gravels,
- mud habitats in deep water,
- rossworm (*Sabellaria spinulosa*) reef,
- seagrass beds,
- seapens and burrowing megafauna,
- common maerl beds,
- common mearl (*Phymatolithon calcareum*),
- kaleidoscope stalked jellyfish (*Haliclystus auricula*),
- stalked jellyfish (*Lucernariopsis campanulata*),
- long-snouted seahorse (*Hippocampus guttulatus*),
- short-snouted seahorse (*Hippocampus hippocampus*),
- native oyster beds,
- native oyster (*Ostrea edulis*),
- peacock's tail (*Padina pavonica*),
- tentacled lagoon worm (*Alkmaria romijni*),
- sea snail (*Paludinella littorina*),
- starlet sea anemone (*Nematostella vectensis*).

Effects of designation

If the cMCZ was to be designated in its current form, the following activities would likely be affected by management. This information will be updated if a revised site proposal is recommended for designation at a later date.

Sector	Best Cost Estimate (£) per year	Details
Recreational activities	115,800	There is a high concentration of boating activities and anchoring of recreational vessels within this area. Management may be required over areas of maerl beds, ross worm and seagrass beds.
Commercial fishing	6,300	Vessels that fish in the area are based in Bembridge, Ventnor, Portsmouth, Lymington (mobile gear) and Selsey. Several beach-based static gear boats are based at Steephill Cove and Bonchurch. Potting is known to take place in this site and is an important fishery for crab/lobster. Cuttle and prawn are also important to the local economy.
Ports, harbours and shipping	2,400	The site is located near the St Helens commercial anchorage, Bembridge Harbour and the Port of Southampton. St Helens commercial anchorage has an average of 1,167 vessels anchoring. Annual costs of mitigation of this anchorage are unquantified. There is licenced navigational dredging of the main shipping channel within 1 km of this site and a small amount in Bembridge Harbour. There is licensed navigational dredging of the main shipping channel and two ports within 5 km of the site. The Southampton approach channel dredge passes within 1 km of the site but work is already underway and appropriate analysis has been done ¹ . All future licence applications made in relation to port, harbour and commercial shipping activities would need to consider the possible effects of their activities on the features designated within the site. It is likely that there would be additional costs incurred when carrying out Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) for future licence applications.

¹ http://www.southamptonvts.co.uk/Port_Information/Development_Projects/Approach_Channel_Dredge/

Renewable energy	700	There is potential for future developments that generate electricity using the tidal energy resource in this candidate MCZ. The site overlaps the East of Isle of Wight Area of Potential, which has anticipated energy generation potential of 100 megawatts. Any application would need to consider the possible effects of development on the features designated within the site. This would increase the costs of the application.
Aggregate extraction	1,400	There is one licensed aggregate extraction production area within 1 km of the site. Any application would need to consider the possible effects on the features designated within the site, which would increase the costs of the application. It is anticipated that the EIA for renewal of this licence will be conducted in 2026.
Best estimate total cost	126,600 plus significant unquantified cost due to overlap with commercial anchorage	

Activities that are unlikely to be affected

These activities are known to take place at this site but are not likely to be damaging to the features identified at their current levels of intensity:

- cables intersecting with the site,
- commercial fishing (hand collection/midwater trawl),
- flood management and coastal defence,
- recreational activities (angling, scuba diving, wildlife watching),
- research and education,
- transit of ships.

Why this candidate site is not being proposed for designation in the second tranche

This site may have significant management implications for local sea users and marine sectors, with the greatest quantified costs to the recreational boat users (anchorage) and commercial fishing industry. The site overlaps significantly with an existing marine protected area designation, extending further into the Solent which would further restrict commercial fishing activity.

We have been unable to cost the impact on the St Helen's commercial anchorage on the north east of the site, which provides the only sheltered anchorage in the Solent. This has an average of 1,167 vessels anchoring annually. We have considered redrawing the boundary to exclude the commercial anchorage, but this overlaps with almost the entire subtidal mud feature and a small proportion of the subtidal mixed sediment feature in this site.

We consider that further work is needed to explore the scope for developing local solutions on this site before it can be proposed for designation.

Further consideration

Defra will undertake further discussions regarding boundary alterations and additional information will be gathered ahead of consideration as a candidate site in the third tranche.

Additional information

To read the full consultation document, or respond to the consultation, please visit

<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/marine/tranche2mczs>

To read the advice provided by Natural England, please visit

<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5803843768025088?category=6742552893980672>

For further information, please contact Defra on

- 03459 33 55 77 (UK only)
- +44 20 7238 6951 (from outside the UK)
- defra.helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk



© Crown copyright 2015

You may re-use this information (excluding logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence v.3. To view this licence visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/ or email PSI@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk

This publication is available at www.gov.uk/government/publications

Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at

mcz@defra.gsi.gov.uk

PB 14267